

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph following the heading "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" with the following amended paragraph:

The subject matter of this application is related to the subject matter of copending U.S. Patent application serial numbers 09/749,940; 09/749,937; 09/749,938; and 09/740,305, entitled "System and Method for Managing a Component-Based System," "Method and System for Distributing Service Functionality", "System and Method for Flexible Network Service Application Components," "System and Method for Managing Dependencies in a Component-Based System" respectively, each filed the same day as this application and each being assigned or under obligation of assignment to the same assignee as this application, and each also incorporated by reference.